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DUAL CABLE ARRANGEMENT FOR A VEHICLE WINDOW

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to a window-raising device for a vehicle window of the type comprising a two-cable winding drum, a hood to support such drum partially surrounding the latter but leaving part of its circumference accessible, a hood fastening, a drum support plate, and a "brake box".

A brake box is provided with a crank to drive the drum in rotation, and an inner
10 spring to prevent reverse rotation of the drum. This irreversibility prevents a partly open window from being lowered when the top edge of the window is subject to pressure.

The hood is further shaped to form on its base contiguous with the plate a tunnel that, with the drum, defines a peripheral passage permitting manual insertion of a cable lead to engage it about one turn around the drum.

15 In a known embodiment, the drum has a slot capable of housing the lead end of the cable when it is slid through the peripheral tunnel. The latter runs practically about one half-circumference around the drum, which corresponds to the angular extent of the hood. Its size is defined to permit insertion of the cable-engaging lead between the wall of the tunnel and the drum. The lead is inserted by pushing the cable around the drum while being
20 guided by the wall of the tunnel and sliding it on a sheet metal support track that forms part of the plate, until it reaches the relevant engagement slot, in which the operator manually introduces the lead in order to engage the cable.

In order to make the "brake box" more compact and improve its performance, there has been a tendency to increase its diameter. Because of this, it is no longer possible to do without the ring-shaped sheet metal track on the plate surrounding the base of the drum,
25 ~~which must be eliminated.~~

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the present invention, a window-raising device for a vehicle provides a two-cable winding drum, a hood to support the drum and partially surrounding the latter but leaving part of its circumference accessible, a hood fastening, a drum support plate, and
 5 a "brake box". Preferably, the base of the winding drum is extended by a flange that ~~forms~~
^{cooperates}
[^] a unit with the drum and whose width roughly equal to that of the passage, the flange serving as a support for sliding movement of the cable lead.

The flange ~~forms a unit~~
^{cooperates}
[^] with the drum drive shoes which are placed between
 10 corresponding shoes to drive the crank. Because the flange is substantially continuous, the cable does not risk being blocked in the intervals formed by drive fingers of a crank and the drum.

An opening in the flange is defined by ~~outer side ramp angled~~
^{positioned}
[^] on an axis of rotation XX of the drum. The ramp is ~~designed~~
^{positioned}
[^] between two walls that are roughly parallel to the
 15 axis of drum and formed below the flange. The side ramp preferably has an angle of incline in relation to axis XX of 45° to allow the angled insertion of the cable.

The present invention thereby permits a reduction in the total height of the winding drum for the same number of grooves. The cable is inserted at an angle by sliding it on the ramp. Thus, the drum and the device as a whole are made more compact.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The various features and advantages of this invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description of the currently preferred embodiment. The drawings that accompany the detailed description can be briefly described as follows:

5 Figure 1 is a view in perspective of an automobile vehicle window-raising device incorporating a drum device according to the invention.

Figure 2 is a perspective view on an enlarged scale of the window-raising drum in Figure 1.

10 Figure 3 is a partial view in perspective, seen from a different angle, of the device in Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a view from below of the device in Figure 3.

Figure 5A is a view in elevation of the drum from Figures 2 to 4.

Figure 5B is a view similar to that in Figure 5A showing a drum according to ^{5A}the prior art design.

15 Figure 6 is an axial cross section view along 6-6 of the drum in Figure 5A.

Figure 7 is a view in perspective from below the drum in Figures 5A and 6.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

20 The window-raiser illustrated in the drawings includes guide rail 1 for slider 2 supporting a window that is not shown, and attached to cable 3 passing through return mechanisms 20, 21 mounted on the ends of rail 1. Beyond return mechanisms 4, 5, cable 3 divides into upper cable 3a and lower cable 3b which wind around grooves on drum 4 positioned on support plate 5 capable of turning on axis of rotation X.

25 The device includes hood 6 to support drum 4, partly surrounding it but leaving part of its circumference accessible, hood 6 being attached by its base 7 to plate 8 by fastening devices engaged in holes 10 in base 7 and plate 5. The device is completed by "brake box"

8, which is itself known, provided with crank 9 that is coaxial with drum 4, positioned on plate 5, which has a passage opening for crank 9. The latter is provided with fingers 11 placed between complementary fingers 12 joined to drum 4, which is made of a plastic material, while hood 6 and plate 5 are made of sheet metal.

"Brake box" 8 contains a spring mechanism which is not shown and is itself known, which prevents reverse rotation of drum 4, thereby preventing a partly opened window from being lowered any way except by using the window-raiser.

Hood 6 is shaped in such a way as to have on its base contiguous with plate 5, tunnel 13 which, with drum 4, defines peripheral passage 14 permitting manual introduction of engagement lead 15 of cable 3a (or 3b) onto about one turn around drum 4. To that end, the base of drum 4 is extended by flange 1 forming a unit with the drum, the width of which is roughly equal to that of tunnel 13.

Flange 16 continues around the base of drum 4, except for opening 17 for inserting cable lead 15. Thus, flange 16 forms a track to support and slide lead 15 around drum 4 after introduction in peripheral passage 14 and winding around drum 4 until lead 15 reaches its housing 17. Because flange 16 is continuous, lead 14 does not risk being blocked in the intervals formed by drive fingers 11 of crank 9 and 12 of drum 4.

Opening 17 in flange 16 is defined by outer side ramp 18, angled on axis of rotation XX of drum 4, said ramp 18 being designed between two walls 19 that are roughly parallel to the axis of drum 4 and formed in finger 12 below apron or flange 16. The side ramp preferably has an angle of incline in relation to axis XX of 45°. Naturally, the angle of ramp 18 may vary more or less on either side of 45°, which is given by way of example only.

In the earlier design of a drum used until now, illustrated in Figure 5B, lead 15 on cable 3a (or 3b) achieved access by radial insertion in slot 22 provided in the base of drum 23. This slot 22 is roughly parallel to lengthwise axis XX of drum 23 and extends to drum

height h plus the width of the first cable insertion groove.

Compared to this earlier mode of embodiment, it is clear that the advantage of drum 4 from Figures 5A, 6, and 7 resides in the fact that radial insertion of the lead in slot 22 is replaced by insertion at an angle to axis XX' opening 17 provided in flange 16, and in finger 12, which do not exist in prior drum 23 (Figure 5B).

The present invention thereby permits a reduction in the total height of a drum having a height of h, for the same number of grooves, insertion of lead 15 being achieved as shown in Figures 6 and 7 by sliding it on ramp 18 then engaging the lead behind one or the other of two walls 19 (Figure 7). Thus, the drum and the device as a whole are made more compact.

The foregoing description is exemplary rather than defined by the limitations within. Many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. The preferred embodiments of this invention have been disclosed, however, one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that certain modifications would come within the scope of this invention. It is, therefore, to be understood that within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described. For that reason the following claims should be studied to determine the true scope and content of this invention.

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